

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00

OIC-04 OMB-01 PA-04 PM-07 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07 ACDA-19 ISO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2497

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NATO, MBFR, US, FR

SUBJECT: PUBLIC LAW 93-365

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REF: STATE 202766

1. WE DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH SCHRICKE (QUAI CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS) SEPTEMBER 18 ALONG LINES OF PARA 1 REFTEL. WE LEFT WITH HIM TEXT OF SECTION 302 OF PUBLIC LAW 93-365. SCHRICKE READ TEXT CAREFULLY AND MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. GOF UNDERSTANDS DESIRABILITY OF REDUCING NONCOMBAT PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO BUILD UP COMBAT FORCES. HE NOTED THAT GOF IS LOOKING AT FRENCH FORCE STRUCTURE WITH THAT GOAL IN MIND.

B. CONCEPT OF STANDARDIZED WEAPONS SYSTEMS, AMMUNITION, ETC., HAS LONG AND NOT PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL HISTORY IN NATO AND BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN NATIONS. DIFFICULTY IN ACHIEVING STANDARDIZATION SEEMS PROPORTIONAL TO NUMBER OF COUNTRIES SEARCHING FOR STANDARDIZATION. HE NOTED THAT MUCH OF THE PROBLEM REVOLVES AROUND DEFINITION OF "STANDARDIZATION" AND DIFFICULTY IN ARRIVING AT AGREEMENT ON PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS TO BE ACHIEVED BY STANDARDIZED SYSTEMS. HE THOUGHT THAT CURRENT NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRIORITIES MIGHT PRECLUDE SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT TOWARD STANDARDIZATION.

C. ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A "RATIONAL AND COORDINATED NUCLEAR POSTURE" BY NATO COULD NOT, UNDER CURRENT FRENCH POLICY, INCLUDE FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCES. IN THAT CONNECTION HE REFERRED TO SOUFFLET'S RECENT RESPONSE TO A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION (PARIS 21569, PARA 4, EXDIS NOTAL), REPEATING FRANCE'S INTENTION TO PRESERVE ITS FREEDOM OF DECISION REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MOREOVER, ADDED SCHRICKE, CURRENT GOF STRATEGIC THINKING HOLDS THAT OVERALL DETERRENCE IS ENHANCED PRECISELY BECAUSE THERE ARE THREE DECISION CENTERS (WASHINGTON, PARIS AND LONDON) FOR WEST'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MOVES TO "COORDINATE" NUCLEAR POSTURE OF NATO WOULD ERODE THESE MULTIPLE CENTERS OF DECISION, AND THEREFORE WOULD REDUCE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE WEST'S NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

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2. SCHRICKE THANKED US FOR OUR EXPLANATION, AND SAID THAT DE ROSE HAD RECEIVED HELPFUL CLARIFICATION FROM AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD ON THIS SUBJECT (USNATO 4711 LIMDIS). IRWIN

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